

firsthand the amazing work that the National Center does.

One of the things that I did after the abduction and murder of Laura Kate Smither was to go to the National Center to see the work that they do there, to meet with Ernie Allen, the President and CEO of the National Center. Seeing the Center and the people who work there proved absolutely inspiring to me and helped me to found that Congressional caucus that so many of our Members now participate in.

I hope that the Members of your staff, those of you who hear me and all of us who visited the center yesterday, were just as inspired and will bring that inspiration back to your offices. There is so much that we can do together to prevent the abduction and exploitation of America's children, if we but take the first step.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on motions to suspend the rules ordered prior to 6:30 p.m. may be taken today.

Record votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 472) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 472

Whereas the 4-H Youth Development Program celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2002;

Whereas members of the 4-H Youth Development Program pledge their Heads to clearer thinking, their Hearts to greater loyalty, their Hands to larger service, and their Health to better living for the club, the community, the country, and the world;

Whereas the 4-H Youth Development Program sponsors clubs in rural and urban areas throughout the world;

Whereas 4-H Clubs have grown to over 5,600,000 annual participants ranging from 5 to 19 years of age;

Whereas 4-H Clubs strengthen families and communities;

Whereas 4-H Clubs foster leadership and volunteerism for youth and adults;

Whereas 4-H Clubs build internal and external partnerships for programming and resource development;

Whereas today's 4-H Clubs are very diverse, offering projects relating to citizenship and civic education, communications and expressive arts, consumer and family sciences, environmental education and earth sciences, healthy lifestyle education, personal development and leadership, plants, animals, and science and technology; and

Whereas the 4-H Youth Development Program continues to make great contributions toward the development of well-rounded youth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program and commends the program for service to the youth of the world; and

(2) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe a "National 4-H Youth Development Program Week" with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 472.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 472, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program and commends the program's contributions toward the development of well-rounded youth.

The 4-H program is the youth education branch of the Cooperative Extension Service, a program of the United States Department of Agriculture. Members can range from age 5 to 21 and the 4-H experience enables its members to have fun, meet new people, learn new life-skills, build self-confidence, learn responsibility and set and achieve goals. It is a program that builds the leaders of tomorrow at the local, county, district, state, national and international level.

Parents, volunteers, community leaders and staff share their time and talents with 4-H youth, thereby aiding in the development of these young people to reach their fullest potential. The life skill and leadership development is accomplished through hands-on learning and by utilizing the knowledge of the country's land-grant university system.

4-H projects are in-depth, hands-on learning experiences for their members. Training pets, making clothes, repairing computers, growing plants and building rockets are just a few examples of 4-H projects. A wide range of projects is offered in each state. Additionally, 4-H Members across the country are assisting in closing the gap between the technology haves and have-nots. The Access the Future Coalition was created to coordinate the efforts of 4-H youths and adults working in partnership with organizations across the United States to bridge the digital divide.

I am very pleased to recognize the 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to join the gentleman from Georgia and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), and am particularly pleased to join my Congressional neighbor, the chief sponsor of the resolution, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DAVIS), in formally recognizing the 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program.

The 4-H program originally began as a number of separate farm programs for youth. In Illinois, the programs consisted of corn growing clubs. In Ohio, they consisted of soil experiments. In Virginia, the programs began as corn growing boys and tomato canning clubs for girls. In the early 1900s, the U.S. Department of Agriculture organized these various youth groups throughout the country into the 4-H program.

The 4-H program began as a way to involve heads, hearts and hands of farm youth in practical hands-on education in agriculture. A fourth H, for health, was added on later because of that important issue. Early extension agents and educators were able to introduce new technology and improved ways of doing things to rural communities through work with youth.

Today, 4-H has grown well beyond its original roots. It involves at least 28 percent of U.S. youth during one or more of their K through 12 grade years, and there are approximately 60 million 4-H alumni. Last year, nearly 7 million young men and women participated in 4-H programs. More than half of them were from cities and their suburbs. Over 30 percent are from racial or ethnic minorities.

In Virginia, 4-H clubs can be found in each of the State's 107 cities and counties, and through its 4-H education centers, Virginia has the second largest camping program in the Nation.

As the 4-H has grown in size, it has also grown in focus. Although working with plants and animals is still a major focus of 4-H, participants can also choose projects in personnel development and leadership, environmental education, science and technology or communications. National 4-H initiatives also include workforce preparation programs dedicated to helping young people acquire basic skills, explore career opportunities and gain experience in the workplace.

All in all, 4-H programs provide opportunities, relationships and support for youth to help them acquire the life skills necessary to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Virginia, the chief sponsor of the resolution, and salute her for introducing the resolution, and